

**Status of the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:  
a frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween; ~~and~~  
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the frame and  
extending between the upper and lower edges in a directional relationship generally opposite  
thereto so as to define a ball-receiving portion; and

the ball guide fingers each having a sloped, substantially rounded outer surface facing the  
ball-receiving portion.

2. (Currently amended) The head of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers protrude  
unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame and ~~include an~~ the outer surface ~~which~~  
slopes outwardly as the fingers extend between the upper and lower edges of the frame.

3. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers terminate in a shoulder  
protruding unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame.

4. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 further comprising a separate insert made of a  
material different than the material comprising the frame and adapted to be secured to the  
interior face of the frame, the fingers protruding unitarily outwardly from the insert.

5. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 4 wherein the frame includes a ball stop back wall  
and opposed side walls unitary therewith and defining an elongate interior recess, the insert  
being adhesively secured in the interior recess defined therein.

6. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 4 wherein the insert comprises spaced-apart top and  
bottom elongate trusses and the fingers extend along the trusses in a spaced-apart and generally  
transverse relationship to the top and bottom trusses.

7. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes an exterior face and the  
head further comprises a separate sleeved insert made of a material different than the material

comprising the frame and adapted to cover the top edge of the frame and the interior and exterior faces thereof, the fingers protruding unitarily outwardly from an exterior face of the insert.

8. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 7 wherein the frame includes a ball stop back wall and opposed side walls, the sleeved insert comprising an elongate sheet adapted to be secured to the interior face of the ball stop back wall and side walls respectively and a pair of sleeves unitary therewith and adapted to cover the top edge and the exterior face of the side walls respectively.

9. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame is made of a first material and further comprising an overlay made of a second material and molded over the interior face of the back stop wall and the exterior and interior faces of the respective side walls, the fingers being unitary with and protruding outwardly from the overlay in the region of the interior face of the back wall and side walls respectively.

10. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and the fingers are spaced along the interior face of the frame in the region of the back stop wall.

11. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and opposed side walls and the fingers are spaced along the interior frame between the back wall and the end of the respective side walls.

12. (Withdrawn) A lacrosse stick head comprising:  
a frame made of a first material and including a handle base, a back stop wall unitary with the handle base and a pair of spaced-apart side walls unitary with and extending outwardly from opposed ends of the back stop wall, the back stop wall including top and bottom edges and an interior face and each of the side walls including interior and exterior faces, an exterior face and top and bottom edges; and  
an elongate insert made of a second material and adapted to cover at least a portion of the interior face of the back stop wall and side walls and defining a plurality of outwardly protruding

spaced-apart fingers extending between, and in a generally opposed directional relationship to, the top and bottom edges of the back stop wall and side walls respectively.

13. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the fingers slope outwardly as the fingers extends from the top edge to the bottom edge of the back stop wall and side walls respectively, each of the fingers further defining a lower shoulder.

14. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert includes upper and lower elongate trusses and the fingers extend in a generally spaced-apart and transverse relationship between the trusses.

15. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 14 wherein the insert includes a center portion and opposed wing portions and the fingers vary in length between the center and wing portions.

16. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert is adapted to be adhesively secured to the interior face of the back stop wall and side walls respectively.

17. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert includes a pair of sleeves adapted to cover at least a portion of the top edge and exterior face of the side walls respectively.

18. (Currently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:  
a frame defining a pocket at one end and a scoop at an opposite end;  
the frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;  
the head further comprising a plurality of outwardly protruding fingers spaced along the interior face of the frame and extending between the upper and lower edges of the frame in a generally opposed directional relationship thereto;

each of the fingers having a substantially rounded, outer sloped surface for directing a lacrosse ball into the pocket and a lower shoulder for holding the ball in the pocket and directing the ball between the pocket and the scoop.

19. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 18 wherein the frame is made of a first material and further comprising an elongate insert made of a second material and adapted to be adhesively secured to the interior face of the frame, the fingers being unitary with and protruding outwardly from the insert.

20. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 19 wherein the insert comprises upper and lower trusses and the fingers extend unitarily generally transversely between the upper and lower trusses in spaced-apart and generally parallel relationship.

21. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 19 wherein the insert includes a pair of sleeves adapted to surround at least a portion of the upper edge of the frame.

22. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are unitary with and protrude outwardly from the outer surface of an overlay molded directly to at least the interior face of the frame.

23. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame.

24. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the length of the fingers vary along the interior face of the frame.

25. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the frame includes a back wall at one end, a scoop wall at the other end and a pair of side walls therebetween, the fingers extending along the back wall and side walls respectively and the length of the fingers increasing progressively

between the back wall and respective side walls and then decreasing progressively along each of the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

26. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the shoulder on each of the fingers is sloped and the slope of the shoulders of successive fingers decreases progressively between the back wall and the respective side walls and then increases progressively along the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

27. (New) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

28. (New) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

29. (New) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

30. (New) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

31. (New) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

32. (New) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers have upper and lower ends, the upper ends being generally flush with the interior face and the lower ends protruding from the interior face.

33. (New) The head of claim 32 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

34. (New) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

35. (New) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers have upper and lower ends, the upper ends being generally flush with the interior face and the lower ends protruding from the interior face.

36. (New) The head of claim 35 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

37. (New) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers vary with regard to the amount of slope.

38. (New) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of fingers vary with regard to the amount of slope.